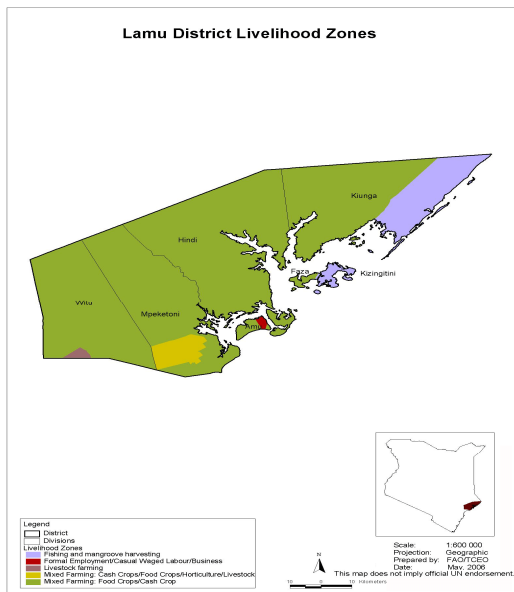




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR JUNE, 2008

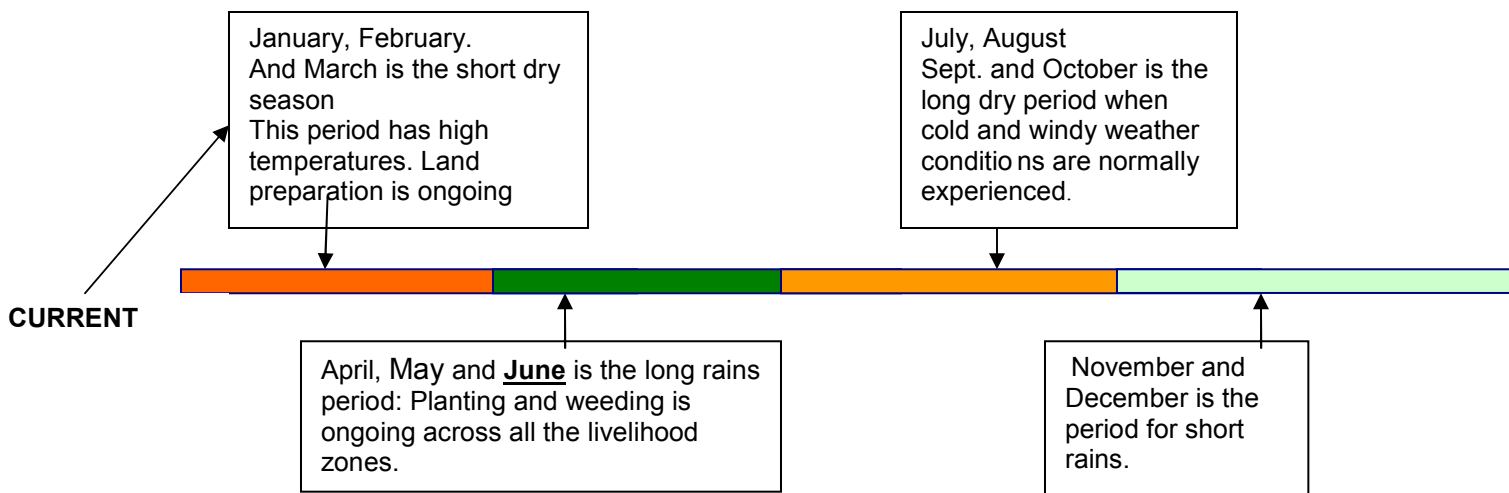
IJARA DISTRICT



WARNING STAGES

Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture	Normal	improving
Mixed Farming:/food crops/Cash crops /	Normal	Improving
Livestock farming	Alert	improving
*Fishing		
*Formal employment/casual waged labour/business		
District	Normal	Improving

TIME LINE



Situation overview

- The Long rains season is ongoing with high rainfall reported across the District.
- The quality and quantity of forage and pasture is good with the ongoing wet season.
- The prices of cattle have gone up by 18% compared to long term average of year 2006-07.
- Goat prices have gone down by 35% compared to long term average of year 2006-2007.
- Maize prices increased by 84 % and that of beans went up by 42.9 % compared to the Long Term average of year 2006-2007.
- Rainfall and forage conditions have averaged within the normal though food accessibility is still difficult, access to water has eased up and the situation in the District is therefore on Normal, and the trend is Improving.

Current interventions measures

- Currently KRCS is doing distribution of non-food items to flood victims

Recommendations

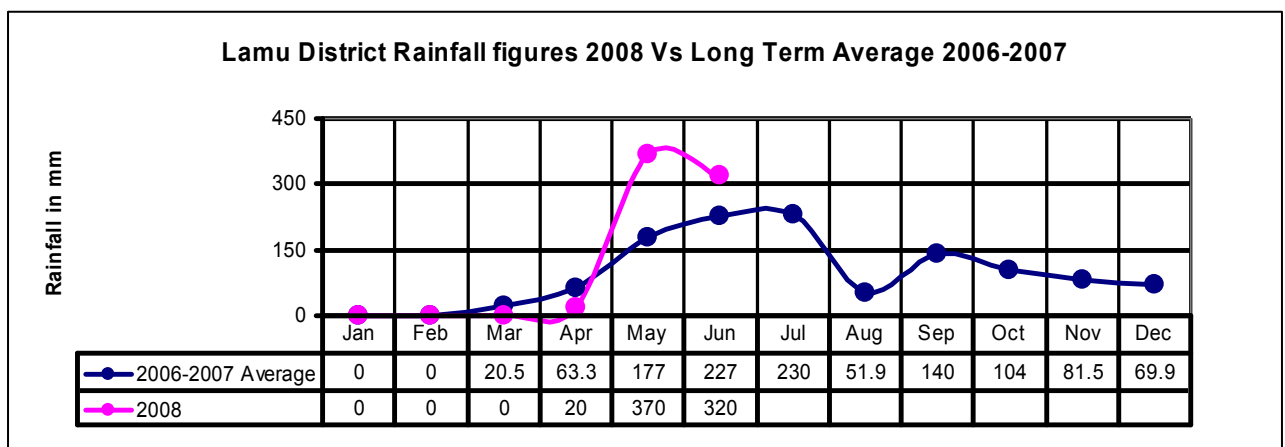
- More food for relief services to be availed to support house holds until harvesting season.
- Ministry of agriculture to carry out more training to local farmers on pest management at this time.
- Kenya wildlife service to help the community in overcoming human wildlife conflict across the District to reduce crop damages.

Warning Phase

- Rainfall and forage conditions have averaged within the normal though food accessibility is still difficult, access to water has eased up and the situation in the District is therefore on Normal, and the trend is Improving

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall



- Rainfall has been reported across the District and is on an average of 320mm for this month across the livelihood zones.
- Livestock livelihood zone reported 400mm, while the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported 344mm. the Mixed Farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture reported 389mm.
- The amounts received are not normal going by the 2006/07 long term averages.

1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture condition

- The quality of forage and pasture is average and is also available in average quantities. Livestock pests and wildlife pose a major constraint to access of forage.
- Average distances to grazing have increased slightly from 1.7km to 1.9km due to cropping activities
- The distances are higher for the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone as compared to the other two livelihood zones. This could be attributed to the ongoing cultivation activities making farmland inaccessible for grazing, but is normal at this time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Shallow wells were the major house hold water source at 36.4% followed by Bore holes and Natural ponds each at 27%.
- Other water sources including natural rivers and lakes supplied water at 9% each respectively.
- House hold water access is average. Distance to water sources is 1.3 km down from 1.5km last month and is continuing to decrease.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- There was no livestock migration reported in the district this month.

1.4.2 Implications on food security

- If left unchecked, the crop pest cases may put farmers' efforts to plant into waste.

2. Food availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition for cattle and shoats appear average.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Endemic Trypanosomiasis has been the norm across the three livelihood zones. This is normal for this time of the year.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production averaged 1.15 litres per household per day which is above last month's production of 1.0 litre and is improving owing to incoming rainfall and various project interventions like livestock vaccination.
- Households in the livestock livelihood zone produced the highest amount of milk at **2.65** litres per household per day up from 1.8 litres previous month, while the mixed farming: food/cash crop livelihood zone produced the lower of 0.8 litres per household per day. It is however normal at this time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

- Currently, farmers are in the weeding and pre-harvest preparations at the start of the long rains.
- Mango harvesting is ongoing alongside vegetables and in very good quantities.

2.3 Pests and diseases

- The army worms reported previous month have been controlled by DAO's office.
- The main crop pests are army worms, rodents and wildlife and are normal at this time of the year.

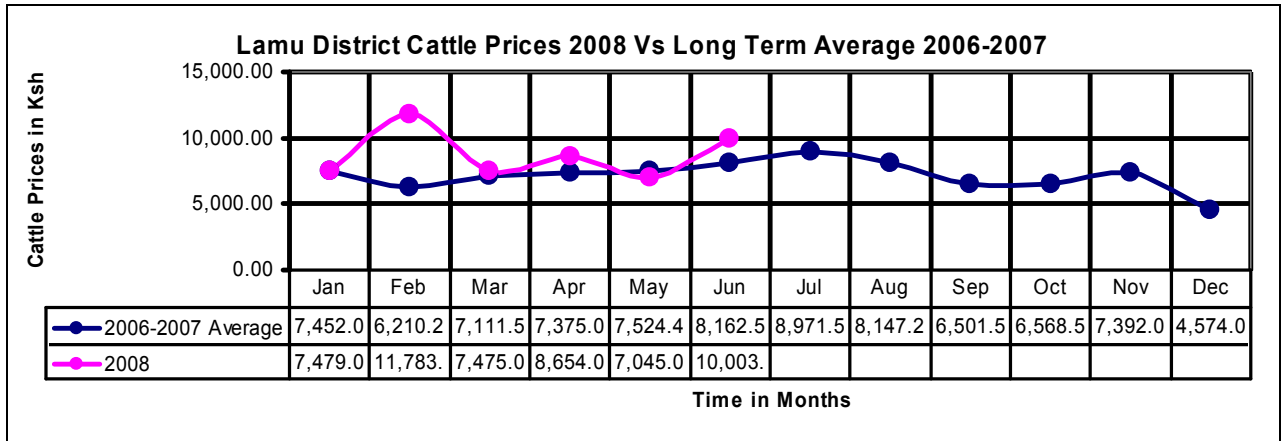
2.4 Implications on food security

- Milk production has continued to improve after a long time downward production trend.
- There is no stock in farmers' granaries as at the moment, and the District is still food insecure due to low yield received previous year but the situation is normal as per the long term trend.

3. Access to food

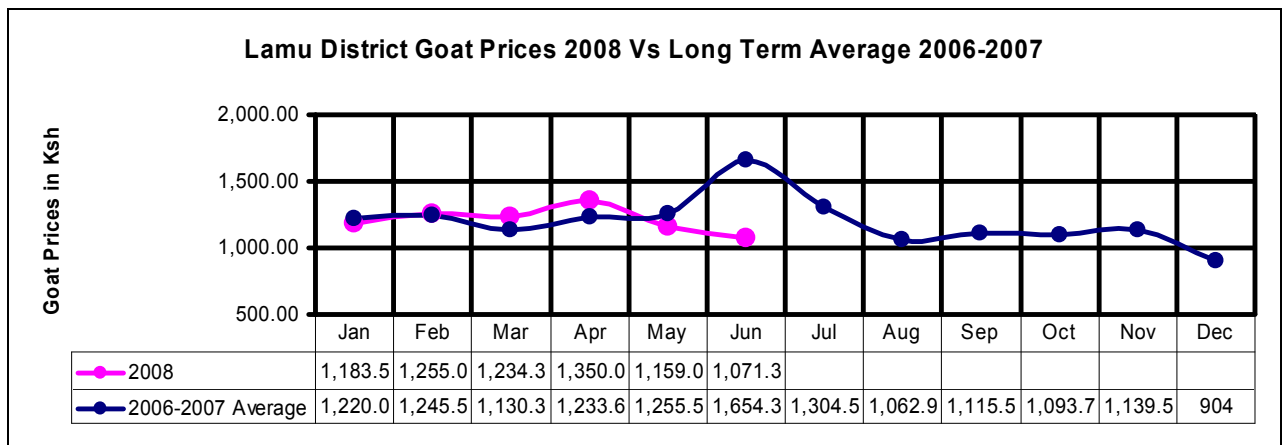
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The average cattle price at farm-gate level was Ksh 10,003 higher than previous month's price at Ksh. 8,595 owing to dependence of households on livestock due to reducing crop stock.
- This is above the price at same time of the long term average year's 2006/07 of Ksh 8,162.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh 11,000 while the livestock farming livelihood Zone recorded the lowest at Ksh.9,007
- This is however a normal trend at this time of the year, going by long term average.

3.1.2 Goat prices

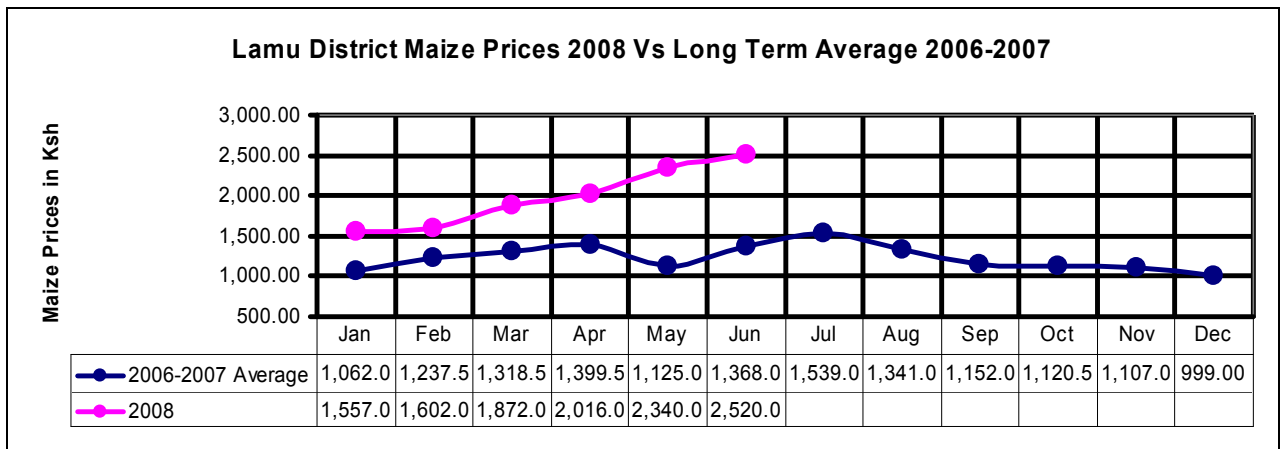


- The average goat price at farm-gate was Kshs.1, 071 which is slightly lower than that of last month of Ksh. 1,159 and lower to that of same time in the year 2006/07 average of Ksh 1,654.
- This is not normal at this time of the year going by the long term average.

- Lowest prices were recorded at the livestock farming livelihood zone at Ksh 1,030 while the highest recorded at the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh. 1,112

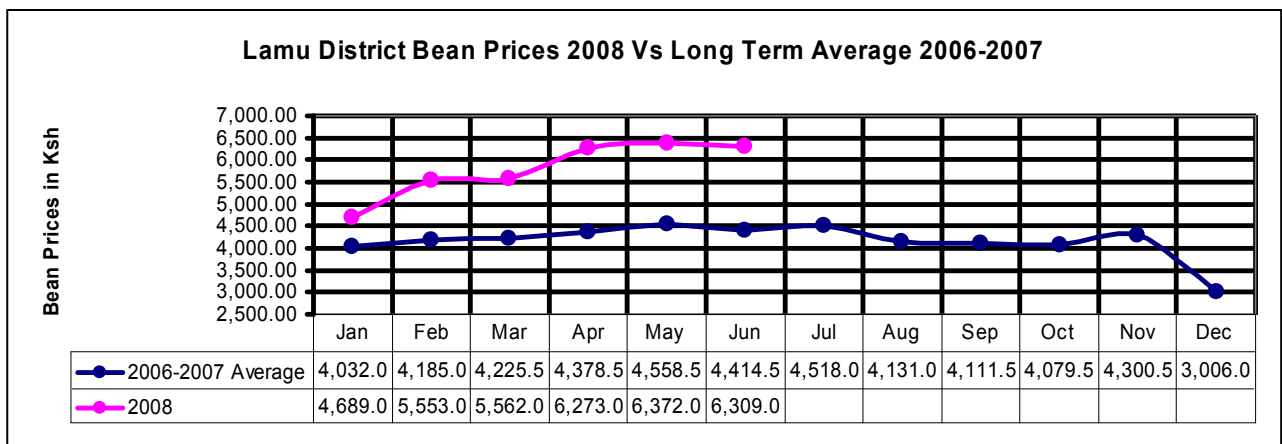
4. Crop prices

4.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices at market level averaged Kshs.2, 520 per 90 Kg bag, slightly higher compared to last month's price at Ksh 2,340 and are on an upward trend.
- This is way above the price at the same time of the long term average of year 2006/07 of Ksh.1, 368 due to reducing stock implying food shortage across the District.
- The slight difference shows stabilizing prices.
- Higher Maize prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone at Ksh 2,520 and the livestock farming livelihood zone reported nil sales.
- This is not a normal trend at this time of the year as compared to the available long term trend since the prices have been very high.

4.2 Beans prices



- Average prices of beans at market level were Kshs 6,309 per 90 Kg bag which is almost similar to that of last month at Kshs 6,372 but higher than the long term average of year 2006/07 and Kshs 4,414.
- This is not a normal trend at this time of the year in the District and is attributed to the growing difficulty in accessing food due to scarcity.
- The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone

5. Income

5.1 Crops income

- Income from crops were mainly from the sale of mangoes harvested this peak season.

5.2 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock and livestock products accounted for 3.5 % and 7.7% respectively of total household income sources in the district, which is higher compared to last month at 7% and 2.9% respectively.
- Livestock sales were experienced in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop and Livestock livelihood zones only. This is a normal trend at this time of the year for this District.

5.3 Other income

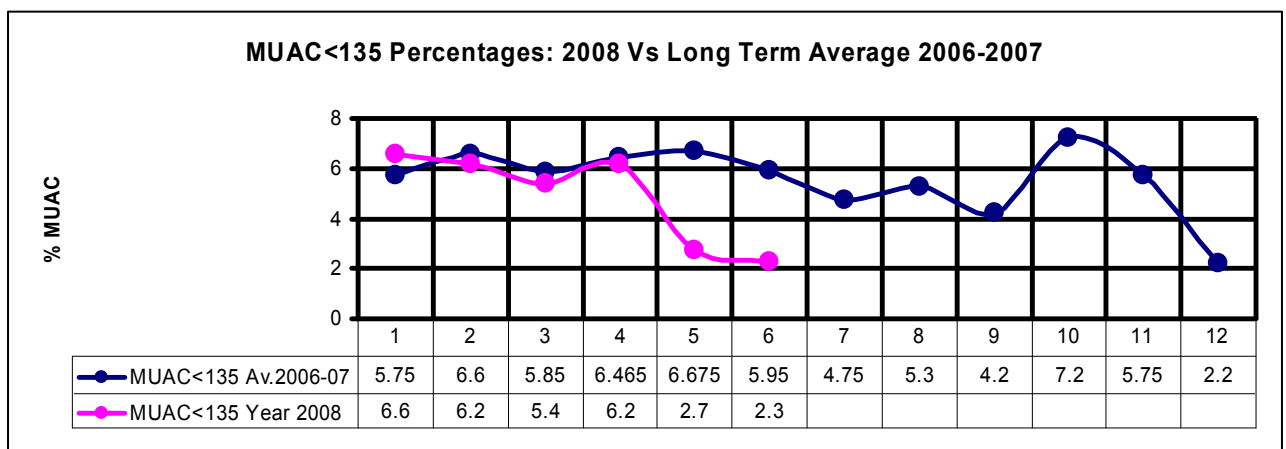
- Casual labour was the main source of income during the month accounting for 58.7% of the total household income which is similar to last month's at 59%.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.
- This is normal at this time of the year.

5.4 Implication on food security

- The shift in animal prices indicate a change in income source, and that there being no crop in stock the district could be food insecure.

6. Utilization

6.1 Nutrition status



- The percentage of children in the District with MUAC levels of < 135mm is 2.3% lower than last month's of 2.7%.
- This is however a very big improvement owing to MoH efforts to give vitamin A and health education.
- The mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported the highest percentage of MUAC levels at 2.7% with the mixed farming: Cash crops/cash crop livelihood zone reporting the lowest at 1.2 %.

7. Health

- No major incidences reported in the District.

8. Current interventions measures

- Currently KRCS is doing distribution of non-food items to flood victims.

9. Recommendations

- More food for relief services to be availed to support house holds until harvesting season.
- Ministry of Agriculture to carryout more training to local farmers on pest management.
- Kenya Wildlife Service to help the community in overcoming human wildlife conflict across the District, so as to reduce crop damages.